



Compact Goal

The Benin Compact removes key constraints to economic growth and supports improvements in physical and institutional infrastructures in four critical sectors in order to increase investment and private sector activity in Benin. The Compact comprises four projects: Access to Land, Access to Financial Services, Access to Justice, and Access to Markets.

Expected Results

- The Program is expected to impact an estimated 5 million beneficiaries and lift 250,000 Beninese out of poverty by the year 2015. The Land Project is expected to assist an estimated 115,000 households with more secure and useful land tenure, reduce land disputes in targeted areas, and increase investment in rural land and urban property. The Financial Services Project is expected to expand financial services to micro, small, and medium enterprises by nearly \$60 million. The Justice Project is anticipated to benefit approximately 2.4 million Beninese by bringing courts closer to rural populations. The Markets Project will alleviate physical and procedural constraints currently hindering the flow of goods through the Port of Cotonou, reducing transport costs, augmenting the quantity of goods flowing through Benin, and stimulating job creation throughout the country.

Update on Progress

- The Government of Benin has made progress on its action plan to improve its performance on the MCC indicators for FY 2008. A revised draft of the action plan was submitted to MCC on May 15. Representatives of the ministries responsible for improving performance are meeting regularly to collaborate on detailed planning.
- The first semi-annual audit of MCA Benin was completed on May 2, and the auditors have submitted their reports. The audit was generally very positive and made several recommendations for specific improvements to internal monitoring and record-keeping systems.

- From May 9-11, the Access to Land Project held a national workshop to select communes which will participate in the Rural Landholding Plans activity. The list of selected communes was published on the MCA-Benin website.
- On April 30, a key study for the Access to Financial Services Project was launched at a workshop with actors and stakeholders from the financial services sector.
- An independent financial audit of the Port of Cotonou has begun. This audit is one of the activities under the Access to Market Project.
- The partner institutions working with the Access to Justice Project have drafted and revised business plans for their activities.
- Consultative committees are convening regularly to discuss and comment on the progress of each of the four projects.
- MCA-Benin conducted a series of outreach meetings throughout Benin from March through May 2007 to continue consultations with the public and to raise awareness regarding the Compact Projects and implementation status. The meetings include members from the public and private sector, civil society, and donors.
- The disbursement for Q3 was executed on Friday, June 8th in the amount of \$1,871,761.
- MCA-Benin signed Implementation Entity Agreements with 2 partners for the Access to Justice Project on Friday, June 8th.
- There has been considerable progress in developing a National Policy for Microfinance that is acceptable to MCC, a condition for the Financial Services Project in the Compact. Also, the first phase of the demand study for the Access to Financial Services Project has concluded.

Compact Status

Status..... Implementation, Year 1

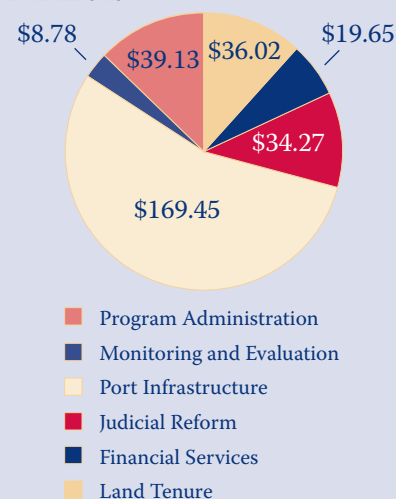
Compact Information

Total Amount.....\$307.3 million
Duration5 years
Compact Signed 2-22-2006
Entry in to Force.....10-06-2006

Country Information

Population8,177,208*
GNI Per Capita..... \$510*

Obligations by Key Sector in millions



Disbursement Schedule in millions

